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#### THE BOMBING DISPUTE: COST AND EFFECTIVENESS

A rather anticlimactic and ironic scene took place this month ago when CIA director Richard Helms testified in secret session before Sen. Richard Russell's (D-Ga.) "watchdog" subcommittee on CIA activities. Present for the first time was chairman J. William Fulbright of the Foreign Relations Committee, whose criticisms last year of the CIA's allegedly hawkish influence on U.S. foreign policy led to a compromise agreement to invite him and two members of his committee to watchdog hearings. In revealing the substance of agent reports highly critical of the bombing of North Vietnam Helms reportedly gave the CIA's foremost critic ammunition with which to confront Secretary of State Dean Rusk in closed Foreign Relations Committee hearings last week. Russell, a leading hawk, found the CIA report disconcerting and now feels that much of the bombing has proved ineffective and extravagantly expensive.

CIA OFFICIALS HAVE GRUMBLED for some time that their information is not receiving proper attention at the White House. They mostly blame persuasive foreign affairs adviser Walt W. Rostow, who was the first and most vigorous advocate of North Vietnam bombing, proposing it to President Kennedy just two weeks after he took office. The anti-bombing faction within the Administration is increasingly critical of Rostow, referring to him as a "Marxist turned inside out"--a man who believes in the historic inevitability of U.S. success and maximum commitment throughout the world.

MORI/CDF